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TWENTIETH

Annual Report of the Inspectors

OF THE

ALBANY PENITENTIARY,

MADE 16TH DECEMBER, 1868.

WITH APPENDIX :

Impressions of Prison Life in Great Britain.

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TWENTIETH



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ALBANY PENITENTIARY,

WITH THE

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

MADE 16TH DECEMBER, 1868.

WITH APPENDIX :

*Impressions of Prison Life in Great Britain.*

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ALBANY, N. Y. :

J. MUNSELL, 82 STATE STREET.

1868.

114'37

## MEETING OF THE JOINT BOARD.

DECEMBER 16, 1868.

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Proceedings of the Joint Meeting of the Hon., the Recorder of the city, and the Board of Supervisors of the county of Albany, held at City the Hall, on Wednesday, December 16th, 1868, at 10½ A. M.

Mr. Staats reported that the Mayor was absent, and on his motion Recorder Rosendale was chosen Chairman.

And on motion of Mr. Carey, Mr. Wheeler was appointed Secretary.

On motion Mr. Wheeler, the Superintendent, and Inspectors of the Penitentiary were invited to seats within the circle.

Hon. Wm. A. Young then read the Twentieth Annual Report of the Inspectors.

Mr. Shear offered the following:

*Resolved*, That the Report of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary be accepted and placed on file, and that it be published by the Inspectors, together with the Reports of the Superintendent, Physician, and Chaplain of the Penitentiary, in the usual form and number. Adopted.

Mr. Feltman offered the following :

*Resolved*, That the Inspectors of the Penitentiary are entitled to the thanks of the citizens of Albany County, for their gratuitous discharge of the duties incumbent on that position during the past year. Adopted.

Mr. Edmeston offered the following :

WHEREAS, The term of office of William A. Young, one of the Inspectors of the Penitentiary, expires on the first day of March next; therefore,

*Resolved*, That William A. Young, of the City of Albany, be and hereby is reappointed an Inspector of the Albany County Penitentiary for three years from the first of March, 1869. Adopted.

The Joint Board then adjourned.

## INSPECTORS' REPORT.

---

*To the Mayor and Recorder of the City of Albany, and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Albany, in Joint Meeting assembled :*

The undersigned, Inspectors of the Albany County Penitentiary, respectfully present their Twentieth Annual Report, showing the progress and condition of the Institution during the fiscal year ending on the thirty-first day of October, 1868.

The reports of the Superintendent, Chaplain and Physician of the Prison are hereto annexed, and are respectfully recommended to the attention of your honorable body.

These documents will afford ample information in regard to various matters of detail which it has not been considered necessary to state at length in this report.

On reference to the accompanying report of the Superintendent, it will be seen that the gross income of the Penitentiary for the last fiscal year has been,... \$52,025 20  
And its ordinary expenditures, for the same

time,..... 41,789 97

Leaving a profit of, ..... \$10,235 28

From the amount of profit just given, there has been expended during the year, in purchasing flag and sill stone for additional cells, for new gates in rear of yard to male prison, balustrade on shop, water closet and bath rooms in dwelling and Female Department, the sum of

\$2,881.97. Deducting this from the gross profits as above stated, leaves the net gain for the year,..... \$7,353 26

In their last annual report to the Joint Board the undersigned took occasion to state, that it was proposed, in the course of the year now just expired, to build a range of cells from the south wing of the Prison building to the western wall of the inclosure. This purpose has not been carried out, however, as the cost of material and labor continued so high as to render it somewhat doubtful if the work could be completed with the funds available for that object during 1868.

Still a considerable sum has been expended on account of this improvement. Plans have been procured, a large portion of the sill and flag stone required for the additional cells has been purchased as above stated, locks for the cell doors are now being made, and the new building will be commenced as early in the coming spring as the weather will permit. In the opinion of the Superintendent a sufficient amount may be drawn from the funds of the Institution without interfering with its business operations, to insure the completion of this important enlargement of the Prison before the end of the current fiscal year. When built, this addition will complete the buildings on the south, according to the original design, and afford entire protection, on that side, to the yard and the property within it.

The business affairs of the Penitentiary have been conducted, during the past year, upon the same principles of fairness and liberality which have governed the Superintendent throughout his long intercourse with contractors; and the undersigned are highly gratified at the excellent feeling that continues to prevail between the Prison officers and the gentlemen by whom the convicts are employed.

The principal work carried on at the Institution during the year has been shoemaking under contracts with parties in the city of New York.

Most of the women, with about twelve male prisoners, have been employed in caning and finishing chair seats and backs.

Excepting those just mentioned, and also the number required for making and repairing clothing, for cooking, baking, washing and ironing, and for the necessary work about the buildings and grounds, all the able-bodied convicts are employed in the shoe shops.

The following summary has been compiled from the statistics of the Institution for the past year:

The number of prisoners received during the year	
has been, .....	801
Which added to those on hand Oct. 31, 1867, .....	410
	<hr/>
Makes a total in confinement for the year of, ..	1,211
Discharged by expiration of sentence, .....	778
Pardoned by the President, .....	13
Pardoned by the Governor, .....	3
Discharged by Courts and Magistrates, .....	16
Discharged on Certiorari, .....	8
Discharged on Habeas Corpus, .....	6
Discharged by payment of fines to Justices or here, .....	18
Transferred to Lunatic Asylum — insane when received, .....	1
Died — whites 6, colored 6, .....	12
	<hr/>
Total number discharged during the year, .....	855
	<hr/>
Leaving in confinement, October 31, 1868, .....	356
	<hr/> <hr/>

# INSPECTORS' REPORT.

viz : Males, white,.....	219	
do. colored, .....	67	
	—	286
Females, white,.....	55	
do. colored, .....	15	
	—	70
Total, .....		356

Of the above number received during the year, there were :

Males, .....	597	
Females, .....	204	
	—	
Total, .....		801
White, .....	710	
Colored,.....	91	
	—	
Total, .....		801

Of these there were born

In the United States,.....	421
In Ireland,.....	274
In England,.....	34
In Canada,.....	26
In Germany,.....	28
In France,.....	3
In Scotland,.....	5
In West Indies, .....	2
In Wales, .....	2
In Prussia, .....	2
In New Brunswick,.....	2
While Italy and Greece have each furnished one, .....	2

Total, .....	<u>801</u>
--------------	------------

367 could read and write,  
161 could read only,  
273 could neither read nor write.

801 total.

628 admitted themselves to be intemperate,  
173 claimed to be temperate.

801 total.

266 were, or had been married,  
535 were single persons.

801 total.

144 were under twenty years,  
279 were between twenty and thirty years,  
175 were between thirty and forty years,  
124 were between forty and fifty years,  
79 were above the age of fifty.

801 total.

Of the commitments during the year, 528 were for misdemeanor, 14 for offenses against the person, 239 for offenses against property, and 20 for offenses against the United States.

239 were sent from the city of Albany.

249 from the town of Watervliet.

2 from the town of Coeymans.

2 being one each from Bethlehem and Berne.

13 from the United States Courts in this state.

505 Carried forward.

505 Brought forward.

5 from the United States Court in Virginia.

4 from the United States Court in North Carolina.

1 from the Army by Court Martial.

64 from Courts of the City of Washington.

222 from other counties in this state.

—  
801 total.  
==

572 were sentenced for terms less than six months.

98 for six months each.

24 for terms from eight months to one year.

26 for one year, or until bailed.

39 for terms above one year, and not exceeding two years.

31 for terms from two years to three years.

8 for terms from five to eight years.

3 for terms of ten years and not exceeding thirteen.

—  
801 total.  
==

The whole number of commitments to the Penitentiary during the year, was sixteen less than for the year ending October 31, 1867.

The number of convicts received during the year from the City of Washington, was thirty-eight less than for 1867, and the entire body, from all quarters, was decidedly inferior to those committed in former years in respect of physical strength and capacity for mechanical occupations.

Annexed to the Superintendent's Report will be found two tabular statements of much interest, and to which the undersigned respectfully ask the particular attention of your honorable body. One of these exhibits in a condensed form the statistics of prisoners received for the entire period during which the Institution has been in

working order, from 1849 to 1868 both inclusive; the second shows the average monthly number of convicts, during the same time, with the number sentenced in each year for terms less than six months, the annual income and expenditures, by comparison of which last, it will be seen that 1849, 1850 and 1858 were the only years when the expenditures have been in excess of the income. It will also appear from this statement that the net balance of income over expenditures for the whole twenty years amounts to \$130,127.86 giving an average of \$6,506.39 per year, from the very outset of an experiment for which many of the wise men of the day predicted an early and signal failure, and in respect of which its most sanguine friends could not venture to hope for the almost uninterrupted success that has so far attended its operations.

No epidemic disease has visited the Penitentiary during the year, but a large number of the convicts was found to be, as has usually been the case, enfeebled by intemperance and the indulgence of evil habits, and much of the time and skill of our Physician has been bestowed upon this unfortunate class; but this gentleman has responded with his usual alacrity to every demand made upon him, and performed all his duties in the most satisfactory manner.

Our Chaplain, on leave of absence granted him in consequence of his own impaired health and the severe illness of his wife, has spent about four months of the year in Great Britain, where he enjoyed, by the courtesy of distinguished officials, very favorable opportunities for examining the chief penal institutions of that country. He returns to us with health restored, and is now engaged, with his wonted energy and faithfulness, in the performance of the duties for which he has shown himself so eminently qualified.

During the Chaplain's absence the duties of his office were performed in the most acceptable manner by clergy-

men of the city belonging to various denominations, and the undersigned avail themselves of this occasion to express their high sense of the obligation which they and the Superintendent are under to the reverend gentlemen who so kindly volunteered to supply the Chaplain's place. A cabinet organ has been purchased for the Chapel, and the Inspectors perform a most agreeable duty in tendering their own and the Superintendent's thanks to Mr. Jacob Vanderzee and other gentlemen of the city who have generously provided on every Sunday an organist and a sufficient number of excellent singers to lead in this interesting portion of the religious exercises of the Institution. The music and singing of the chapel afford the convicts much enjoyment; many of them possess good voices and considerable taste, and most persons, of the outer world, we suspect, would feel no small surprise at witnessing the perfect attention and respect with which they take a voluntary part in our chapel worship.

During the past year we have felt able to make but a moderate addition to the Penitentiary library; its increase, however, is a matter that will not be lost sight of, and we hope to receive, from time to time, as heretofore, contributions to its shelves from our liberal and humane citizens. This collection now numbers about one thousand volumes of useful and instructive works, and affords a source of very great comfort and enjoyment to the prisoners. The affairs of the Penitentiary continue to be in the same excellent condition as throughout its entire previous history. No money has been drawn on its account from the County Treasury during the year, and it is free from debt. The cash system is rigidly adhered to in all purchases made for the Institution; and while nothing needful for the comfortable support and clothing of its inmates is withheld, no waste is tolerated or useless hands employed.

The Inspectors have regularly visited the Penitentiary during the year, and have audited all its accounts. Com-

plete order has prevailed at all times in every department; the books and accounts are kept with system and accuracy, and all its arrangements bear the stamp of judgment and good sense. In respect to the general treatment of the convicts the undersigned need only remark, that the wholesome and practical rules to which the Institution has been indebted for so large a share of its past usefulness and prosperity, still regulate its administration, and are carried out with all the humanity consistent with the leading objects of a penal establishment.

All things considered, the pecuniary results of the past year afford ample testimony to the vigor and ability of the Superintendent, but none know so well as the undersigned the unwearied diligence and attention with which he has devoted himself to the performance of his various and complicated duties.

So far as present appearances enable us to form an opinion on the subject, a considerable reduction of the number of prisoners from abroad is to be expected next year as compared with the last. This must result, of course, in some actual diminution of income; but the relative falling off in this particular will prove very considerable if we are obliged to devote a large share of the earnings of our efficient hands to the support of a battalion of ten to sixty day men and habitual drunkards who waste the substance of the Institution without any return or even benefit to themselves.

The undersigned can not close their report without expressing their approbation of the manner in which the subordinate officers generally have discharged their respective duties.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

W. A. YOUNG,  
ROBERT BABCOCK,  
ELI PERRY,

ALBANY, Nov. 2d, 1868.

*Inspectors.*



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**SUPERINTENDENT OF THE PENITENTIARY.**

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## STATEMENT.

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### INCOME.

#### *Shoe Shop No. 1:*

Received and charged for labor of prisoners in this shop,.....	\$6,039.83	
Charged this account,.....	42.13	
	<hr/>	
Exceeding disbursements,.....		\$5,997.70

#### *Shoe Shop No. 3:*

Received and charged for labor of prisoners in this shop,.....	\$12,719.68	
Charged this account,.....	44.24	
	<hr/>	
Exceeding disbursements,.....		12,675.44

#### *Shoe Shop No. 4:*

Received and charged for labor of prisoners in this shop,.....	\$8,804.12	
Charged this account,.....	9.95	
	<hr/>	
Exceeding disbursements,.....		8,794.17
		<hr/>
Carried forward,.....		\$27,467.31

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Brought forward,.....	\$27,467.31
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*Seating Shop :*

Stock and tools on hand Octo- ber 31, 1867,.....	\$1,806.40
Stock, tools and labor charged this account,.....	3,307.08
	<u>\$5,113.48</u>
Received and charged for work done,.....	\$5,779.43
Stock and tools on hand October 31, 1868,.....	1,081.35
	<u>\$6,860.78</u>

Exceeding disbursements,.....	1,747.30
-------------------------------	----------

## FEMALE DEPARTMENT:

Received and charged for work done by females,.....	3,304.08
Balance of profit and loss account (admission fees and fines),.....	492.40
Received and charged for board, clothing, care, etc., of prisoners from other counties; also for the maintenance of United States convicts from Washington, D. C., from Courts Martial, and from this state,.....	17,814.11
Received for interest,.....	<u>1,200.00</u>
Total amount of Income.....	<u><u>\$52,025.20</u></u>

## EXPENDITURES.

*Improvements and Repairs :*

Amount expended,.....	\$690.35
-----------------------	----------

*Furniture :*

Stock on hand October 31, 1867,	\$7,971.40
Purchased during the year, .....	724.20

	<u>\$8,695.60</u>
--	-------------------

Stock on hand October 31, 1868,	7,920.50
---------------------------------	----------

Leaving for amount expended,.....	775.10
-----------------------------------	--------

*Clothing and Bedding :*

Stock on hand October 31, 1867,	\$4,252.70
Purchased during the year, .....	2,227.87

	<u>\$6,480.57</u>
--	-------------------

Stock on hand October 31, 1868,	3,887.05
---------------------------------	----------

Leaving for amount expended,.....	2,593.52
-----------------------------------	----------

*Provisions :*

Stock on hand October 31, 1867,	\$2,905.20
Purchased during the year, .....	21,498.43

	<u>\$24,403.63</u>
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Stock on hand October	
31, 1868, .....	\$3,034.35

Rec'd for barrels, etc.,	518.65
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	<u>\$3,553.00</u>
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Leaving for amount consumed,.....	20,850.63
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Carried forward,.....	<u>\$24,909.60</u>
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Brought forward,..... \$24,909.60

*General Expense Account :*

Property on hand Oct. 31, 1867, \$3,208.00

Amount paid officers and matrons  
for gas, coal, etc.,..... 18,628.15

\$21,836.15

Property on hand Oct.

31, 1868,..... \$3,035.00

Credited this account, 1,920.78  
\$4,955.78

Leaving for amount expended,..... \$16,880.37

Total amount of ordinary Expenditures, \$41,789.97

Total amount of Income, ..... 52,025.20

Gain to the Institution,..... \$10,235.23

Of this amount there has been expended in cash and charged to "Profit and Loss," for flag and sill stone, for additional cells, new gates in rear of male yard, balustrade on shop, water closets and bath rooms in dwelling and female department, etc.,..... \$2,881.97

Still leaving a gain for year ending October  
31, 1868, of..... \$7,353.26

### RECAPITULATION.

#### INCOME.

Shoe shop No. 1,.....	\$5,997.70	
Shoe shop No. 3,.....	12,675.44	
Shoe shop No. 4,.....	8,794.17	
Seating shop,.....	1,747.30	
Female department,.....	3,304.08	
Balance of profit and loss,.....	492.40	
Board account,.....	17,814.11	
Interest account,.....	1,200.00	
	<u>          </u>	\$52,025.20

#### EXPENDITURES.

Improvements and repairs,.....	\$690.35	
Furniture,.....	775.10	
Clothing and bedding,.....	2,593.52	
Provisions,.....	20,850.63	
Expenses,.....	16,880.37	
Building account,.....	2,881.97	
	<u>          </u>	\$44,671.94
Gain over ordinary expenses and amount charged building account,.....		<u><u>\$7,353.26</u></u>

## STATEMENT OF PROPERTY ON HAND.

OCTOBER 31, 1867.

Furniture, .....	\$7,971.40	
Expenses, .....	3,208.00	
Provisions, .....	2,905.20	
Clothing and Bedding, .....	4,252.70	
Seating shop, .....	1,806.40	
	<u>          </u>	\$20,143.70

OCTOBER 31, 1868.

Furniture, .....	\$7,920.50	
Expenses, .....	3,035.00	
Provisions, .....	3,034.35	
Clothing and Bedding, .....	3,887.05	
Seating shop, .....	1,081.35	
	<u>          </u>	\$18,958.25
Decrease of property on hand, .....		<u><u>\$1,185.45</u></u>

## STATEMENT OF PROPERTY, DEBTS AND CASH.

Property on hand, Oct. 31, 1867,.....	\$20,143.70	
Property on hand, Oct. 31, 1868,.....	18,958.25	
Decrease of property on hand,.....		\$1,185.45
Due on books, Oct. 31,		
1867, from the county		
of Albany,.....	\$13,142.48	
From other counties,		
the United States,		
contractors, and oth-		
ers,.....	20,210.76	
		\$33,353.24
Due on books, Oct. 31,		
1868, from the county		
of Albany, as above,..	\$13,142.48	
From the United States,		
other counties, con-		
tractors, etc.,.....	17,887.84	
		31,030.32
Decrease of debts due,.....		2,322.92
		\$3,508.37
Cash on hand, Oct. 31, 1867,.....	\$27,194.19	
Cash on hand, Oct. 31, 1868,.....	38,055.82	
Increase of cash on hand,.....	10,861.63	
Gain, besides amount charged building account,	\$7,353.26	

## STATEMENT OF PRISONERS.

Number of prisoners in confinement, Oct. 31, 1867,	410
Received from Nov. 1, 1867, to Oct. 31, 1868,.....	801

Total number in confinement during the year...	1,211
Pardoned by the President,.....	13
Pardoned by the Governor,.....	3
Discharged by Magistrates or Courts,.....	16
Discharged by Certiorari,.....	8
Discharged by Habeas Corpus,.....	6
Discharged by payment of fines to the Jus- tices or here,.....	18
Died, white 6, black, 6,.....	12
Sent to Lunatic Asylum (insane when re- ceived),.....	1
Discharged by expiration of sentence,.....	778

Total number discharged during the year,..... 855

Leaving in confinement, October 31, 1868,..... 356

viz: Males, white,.....	219	
Males, black,.....	67	
		286
Females, white,.....	55	
Females, black,.....	15	
		70

356

Of the above number received, there were

Males, ... ..	597	
Females, .....	204	
		801
White,.....	710	
Black,.....	91	
		801

The number received during each month was :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
November,.....	39	9	48
December,.....	60	11	71
January,.....	41	12	53
February,.....	41	7	48
March,.....	60	22	82
April,.....	31	21	52
May,.....	47	20	67
June,.....	59	24	83
July,.....	45	27	72
August,.....	80	18	98
September,.....	51	16	67
October,.....	43	17	60
			<hr/> 801

The number in confinement at the end of each month, has been as follows :

	Males.	Females.	Total.
November,.....	320	55	375
December,.....	330	56	386
January,.....	313	53	366
February,.....	299	51	350
March,.....	319	54	373
April,.....	290	58	348
May,.....	280	68	348
June,.....	292	69	361
July,.....	287	76	363
August,.....	311	73	384
September,.....	301	72	373
October,.....	286	70	356

---

 NATIVES OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES.

United States, .....	421
Ireland, .....	274
England, .....	34
Canada, .....	26
Germany, .....	28
France, .....	3
Scotland, .....	5
Italy, .....	1
West Indies, .....	2
Wales, .....	2
Prussia, .....	2
New Brunswick, .....	2
Greece, .....	1
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

## EDUCATION.

Read and write, .....	367
Read only, .....	161
Can not read, .....	273
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

## AGE WHEN COMMITTED.

Under 20, .....	144
From 20 to 30, .....	279
From 30 to 40, .....	175
From 40 to 50, .....	124
Over 50, .....	79
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

---

HABITS OF LIFE.

Admit themselves to be intemperate,.....	628
Claim to be temperate,.....	173
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

## SOCIAL RELATIONS.

Married, .....	266
Single,.....	535
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

## CRIME OR OFFENSE.

Manslaughter, .....	4
Assault with dangerous weapon,.....	3
Assault with intent to kill, .....	4
Attempt to commit rape,.....	1
False personation, .....	1
False pretenses, .....	1
Seduction,.....	1
Stealing letters from post office, .....	3
Illicit distilling, .....	3
Violating internal revenue laws,.....	4
Conspiracy to defraud internal revenue department,..	4
Defrauding the United States,.....	1
Passing counterfeit fractional currency,.....	3
Passing counterfeit national bank notes,.....	1
Making and passing counterfeit coin,.....	1
Burglary,.....	13
Burglary and horse stealing, .....	3
Burglary and assault with intent to kill, .....	2
	<hr/>
Carried forward,.....	53

Brought forward,.....	53
Grand larceny, .....	44
Larceny from the person,.....	1
Embezzlement, .....	2
Receiving stolen goods, .....	1
Petit larceny, 2d offense, .....	1
Forgery, .....	3
Petit larceny, .....	168
Misdemeanor,.....	528
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

## BY WHOM OR WHERE COMMITTED.

Washington, D. C., Criminal Court, .....	64
United States Court, Northern District, New York,..	2
United States Court, Southern District, New York,...	6
United States Court, Eastern District, New York, ...	5
United States Court, North Carolina,.....	4
United States Court, Virginia, .....	4
United States Court, West Virginia, .....	1
Court Martial, Army, .....	1
Dutchess County, .....	28
Fulton do., .....	5
Rensselaer do., .....	22
Saratoga do., .....	12
Montgomery do., .....	23
Columbia do., .....	23
Washington do., .....	19
Schenectady do., .....	3
Herkimer do., .....	8
Schoharie do., .....	2
City of Troy, .....	52
	<hr/>
Carried forward,.....	284

Brought forward,.....	284
City of Schenectady,.....	18
Oyer and Terminer, Albany County,.....	3
Oyer and Terminer, Columbia do.,.....	3
Oyer and Terminer, Rensselaer do.,.....	3
Oyer and Terminer, Ulster do.,.....	1
Albany County Court,.....	21
Albany Special Sessions,.....	107
Albany Police Court, .....	108
West Troy,.....	180
Cohoes, .....	69
Bethlehem,.....	1
Berne, .....	1
Coeymans, .....	2
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

## TERM OF SENTENCE.

13 years,.....	1
11 years,.....	1
10 years,.....	1
8 years,.....	3
7 years,.....	2
5 years,.....	3
3 years,.....	19
3 years and 3 months,.....	1
3 years and 2 months,.....	1
2 years and 9 months,.....	1
2 years and 5 months,.....	1
2 years and 3 months,.....	3
2 years and \$10,000 fine,.....	2
2 years and \$5,000 fine,.....	2
	<hr/>
Carried forward,.....	41

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Brought forward,.....	41
2 years and \$500 fine,.....	1
2 years,.....	16
1 year and 10 months,.....	1
1 year and 6 months,.....	8
1 year and 6 months and \$2,500 fine,.....	1
1 year and 3 months,.....	5
1 year and 1 month,.....	6
1 year and \$2,000 fine,.....	1
1 year and \$100 fine,.....	1
1 year,.....	23
1 year or bail,.....	26
8 months,.....	1
6 months and \$100 fine,.....	2
6 months and \$50 fine,.....	7
6 months,.....	89
Less than 6 months,.....	572
	<hr/>
	801
	<hr/>

AMOS PILSBURY, Superintendent.

*November 1st, 1868.*

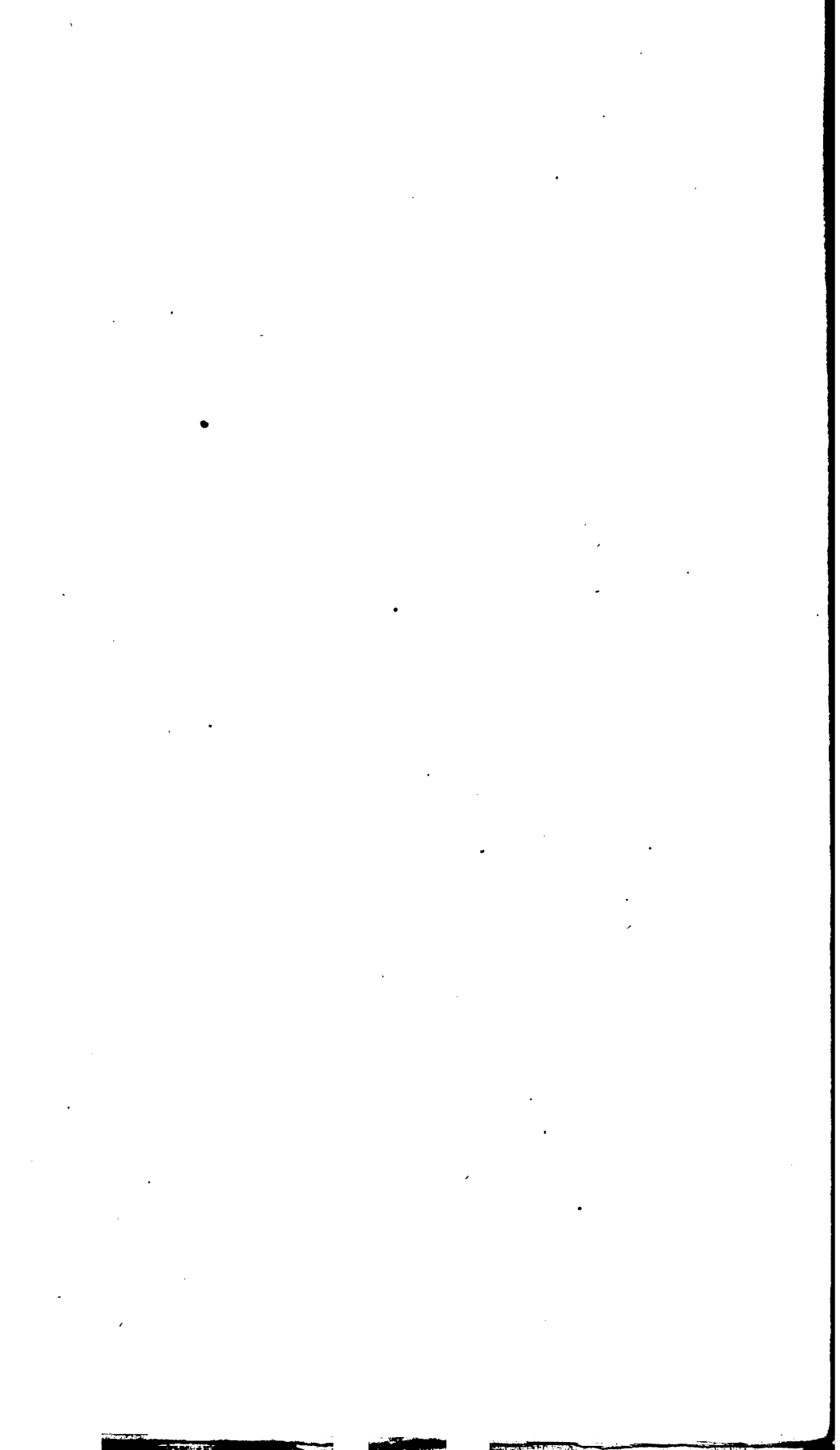
## Tabular Statement of Convicts Received.

YEAR.	WHOLE NUMBER.	SEX.		AGE WHEN COMMITTED.					EDUCATION.			HABITS OF LIFE.		SOCIAL STATE.		NATIVITY.	
		MALE.	FEMALE.	UNDER 20.	20 TO 30.	30 TO 40.	40 TO 50.	OVER 50.	NOT READ.	READ.	READ AND WRITE.	TEMPERATE.	INTEMPERATE.	SINGLE.	MARRIED.	NATIVES.	FOREIGNERS.
1849, .....	408	308	100	77	136	94	68	33	133	80	195	74	334	211	197	172	236
1850, .....	498	359	139	86	173	113	86	40	165	127	206	47	451	226	272	214	284
1851, .....	627	443	184	97	214	153	97	66	185	165	277	65	562	268	344	270	357
1852, .....	759	540	219	108	261	174	143	73	214	216	329	25	734	393	366	313	446
1853, .....	722	534	188	151	210	178	105	78	255	159	308	27	695	389	333	279	443
1854, .....	672	513	159	115	216	154	133	54	223	143	306	38	634	338	334	257	415
1855, .....	801	593	208	130	269	217	132	53	301	203	297	30	771	430	371	302	499
1856, .....	990	741	249	123	322	249	185	111	293	211	486	107	883	493	497	385	605
1857, .....	1,187	903	284	143	345	313	229	157	324	239	624	144	1,043	533	654	416	771
1858, .....	1,150	878	272	158	359	296	192	145	342	282	526	193	957	548	602	414	736
1859, .....	1,207	953	254	125	380	296	252	154	331	302	574	128	1,079	680	527	410	797
1860, .....	1,484	1,172	312	157	432	407	283	205	397	349	738	82	1,402	732	752	508	976
1861, .....	1,533	1,171	362	153	465	402	324	189	346	436	751	82	1,451	896	647	502	1,031
1862, .....	1,090	758	332	137	347	280	201	125	330	279	481	154	936	556	534	435	655
1863, .....	1,133	760	373	131	361	272	202	167	371	268	494	86	1,047	614	519	481	652
1864, .....	687	425	262	124	224	161	98	80	192	165	330	128	559	349	338	321	366
1865, .....	892	643	249	187	394	182	71	58	302	154	436	289	603	568	324	516	376
1866, .....	934	716	218	195	388	163	114	74	395	170	369	283	651	581	853	566	368
1867, .....	817	587	230	151	288	180	102	96	289	190	338	190	627	503	314	440	377
1868, .....	801	660	141	144	279	175	124	79	273	161	367	173	628	535	266	421	380
Total, .....	18,392	13,657	4,735	2,692	6,063	4,459	3,141	2,037	5,601	4,299	8,432	2,345	16,047	9,848	8,544	7,622	10,770

TABLE

*Showing the Yearly Commitments, Average Monthly Number of Prisoners, Income, Expenditures, etc., from 1849 to 1868, both inclusive :*

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OCTOBER.	NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS.	AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF INMATES.	COMMITTED FOR TERMS OF LESS THAN SIX MONTHS.	INCOME.	ORDINARY EXPENDITURES.	INCOME OVER EXPENDITURES.	EXPENDITURES OVER INCOME.
1849, ...	408	155	215	\$5,135.90	\$8,896.83		
1850, ...	498	162	359	9,810.51	10,261.42		
1851, ...	627	175	450	12,151.99	11,138.92	\$1,013.07	
1852, ...	759	225	507	16,595.71	14,285.65	2,310.06	
1853, ...	722	240	496	18,117.18	15,038.12	3,079.06	
1854, ...	672	210	505	16,300.42	14,755.20	1,545.22	
1855, ...	801	225	608	18,174.25	15,587.72	2,586.53	
1856, ...	990	211	788	18,345.98	15,167.94	3,178.04	
1857, ...	1,187	267	989	21,098.25	18,945.49	2,152.76	
1858, ...	1,150	266	932	8,446.85	18,434.36		
1859, ...	1,207	257	1,024	18,119.06	13,562.45	4,556.61	
1860, ...	1,484	249	1,292	18,887.90	14,316.71	4,071.19	
1861, ...	1,533	262	1,355	15,343.33	14,295.26	1,048.07	
1862, ...	1,090	236	815	15,176.20	14,661.17	3,515.13	
1863, ...	1,133	377	795	42,048.82	24,524.60	17,524.22	
1864, ...	687	375	404	53,926.44	33,552.49	20,373.95	
1865, ...	892	451	372	67,648.32	46,265.28	21,383.04	
1866, ...	934	547	485	76,975.32	52,562.83	24,412.49	
1867, ...	817	476	554	70,919.11	49,573.07	21,346.04	
1868, ...	801	365	572	52,025.20	41,789.97	10,235.23	
	18,392	Av. 297	13,512	\$577,746.84	\$447,618.98	\$144,327.21	\$14,199.35



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

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*To the Inspectors of the Albany County Penitentiary :*

In compliance with the by-laws established for the government of the Institution, I now submit my report of the sanitary condition of the Prison, during the year ending the 31st day of October, 1868, being the twentieth year for which I have had the charge of its Medical Department.

The health of the convicts during the year has been generally good, and I am happy to say that no disease of a contagious or epidemic character has shown itself among us. Twelve deaths have occurred, viz: six whites and six colored. Of these cases, six died of consumption, two of typhus fever, one of dropsy, and three from scrofulous affections of the bones and glands. Most of the patients just referred to arrived at the Penitentiary in a hopeless state, and all we could do was to give them such treatment as seemed best calculated to alleviate their sufferings during the short period of time that remained to them.

I do not remember a year during my service at the Institution, when so large a proportion of the number committed, came to us in what may be called a *sickly* condition without positive, well defined diseases, but languid, and much debilitated, by the effects of intemperance and licentious indulgence. The ten day cases—convictions for public intoxication—have been numerous, and have required much of our care and attention; all of little avail, however, for to judge from the frequency with which these persons return to the Penitentiary, their brief season of abstinence, instead of quenching the appetite for strong drink, only

enhances its intensity. It is mortifying to notice, year after year, the extent to which our Hospital is made an infirmary for habitual drunkards.

With such people to care for, and a large number of serious cases, besides, to occupy my time and thoughts, it will be easily seen, that my duties for the past year have required much labor, and I must, in this connection, bear witness to the alacrity and patience with which the Superintendent and the other officers of the Prison have seconded my efforts in behalf of such convicts as needed medical treatment. All my directions for the care of the sick, have been promptly and faithfully carried out, and there has been no lack of kind and efficient nurses.

The food supplied to the prisoners has been at all times wholesome and of ample quantity, the clothing sufficient in all respects; ventilation and cleanliness have been thoroughly maintained, while the same perfect discipline, as heretofore, has been manifested in every part of the establishment.

Respectfully submitted,  
BARENT P. STAATS, M.D.

PENITENTIARY, ALBANY, *Nov. 1st, 1868.*

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

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*To the Inspectors of the Albany Penitentiary :*

Gentlemen — In presenting my report as Chaplain of the Albany Penitentiary for another year, I am thankful to say that through its passing weeks and months, the benediction of Heaven has attended the religious services which have been regularly held, and made their discharge a pleasure. The attendance of the prisoners in the Chapel has been invariably cheerful, apparently devout and promising. Their demeanor, when visited in their cells, always respectful, and often very commendable. There in personal conversation, they have disclosed views and feelings which have suggested topics for pulpit discussion, and not unfrequently directed the counsel publicly given to them. That spiritual good has been received, I have been assured by conversation both with many in the institution, and with some after their liberation.

In consequence of relative affliction, and personal debility, you kindly gave me, during the past summer, a vacation of four months for the purpose of visiting Europe. I am thankful to say, that the pastors of various churches in the city cheerfully engaged to preach for me during that period, and that this service they most acceptably discharged. This afforded them a desirable opportunity of seeing prison life, and it gave the prisoners the privilege of hearing the message of salvation from ministers of different denominations. I am happy to say that a cabinet organ has been placed in the Chapel, and that several

gentlemen of reputation as singers, have kindly visited the Penitentiary every Sabbath morning, and conducted the offering of public praise.

During my stay in Great Britain, I was most courteously permitted by her Majesty's Deputy Secretary of State, who has charge of the criminal affairs of the United Kingdom and the Inspectors of Prisons, to visit several of the prominent prisons there. And the information thus derived will be of permanent interest and value to me. It would not be suitable in this report to refer to details,<sup>1</sup> but I must say that I was more than ever deeply impressed by what I saw, with the high importance, to the individual and the community, of the work for which our Penitentiary and such like institutions exist, *which is the reformation of the criminal*, and the urgent necessity of constantly and earnestly seeking its attainment. If this is not made supreme, they will fail of their chief end, and be of questionable utility. On the other hand let this be thus sought, and those engaged in the prosecution of this work will find an interest therein, that will raise them above all merely pecuniary considerations, lead to the employment of their best talents, and to the manifestation of that spirit which accords with His who "maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

I have cordial pleasure in saying that I found the reputation of the Albany Penitentiary, and its honored Superintendent, extensively known and appreciated in Great Britain. Many inquiries were addressed to me respecting its discipline, administration, economic and reformatory results, and it is not too much to say, that the attention of not a few distinguished philanthropists there, is directed to it, in the hope that this reputation will be sustained and

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix.

heightened, that it may become in a still more extended sense a blessing to the world. For this we should all constantly and assiduously labor, for its influence is not confined to the United States, but like our national institutions, extends to Europe and to the world.

I am glad to say that our Penitentiary library has been lately increased, and now numbers over one thousand valuable and interesting books.

I have been constantly cheered in the chapel service by the presence of the Superintendent, and in all my labors by his cheerful co-operation, and I am under much obligation to him for his kind efforts to prevent the failure of pulpit service during my absence. From the subordinate officers I have received only attention and respect.

I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully yours,

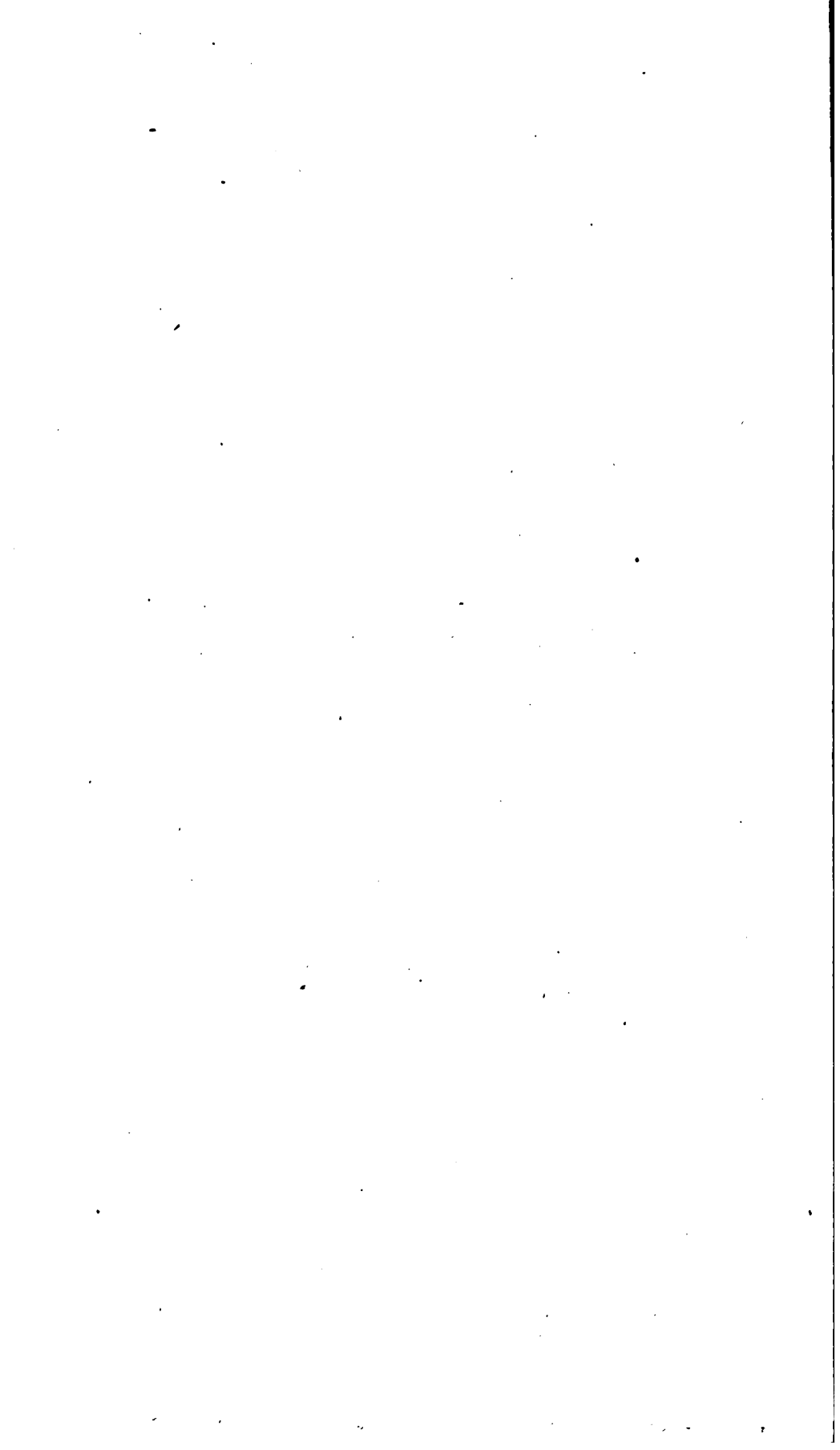
DAVID DYER,

*Chaplain.*

ALBANY, October 31, 1868.



## APPENDIX.



IMPRESSIONS  
OF  
PRISON LIFE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

SUBMITTED

TO THE INSPECTORS AND SUPERINTENDENT OF  
THE ALBANY PENITENTIARY.

BY

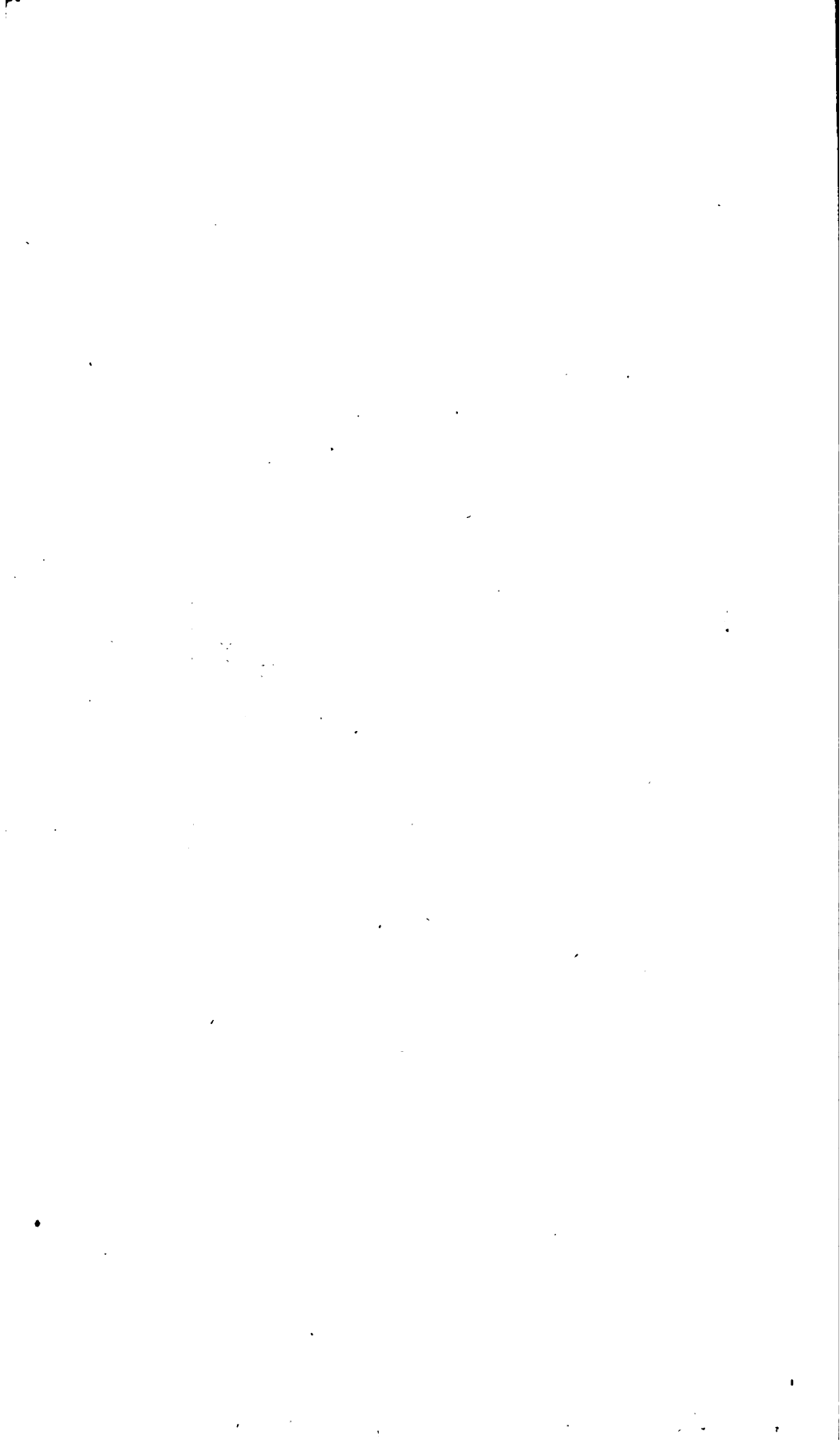
DAVID DYER,  
CHAPLAIN.

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PUBLISHED BY THEIR REQUEST.

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ALBANY, N. Y.:  
J. MUNSELL. 82 STATE STREET.  
1868.



## PRISON LIFE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

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On the eve of my departure for Europe in April last, the Rev. Dr. Wines, secretary of the Prison Association of New York, kindly gave me some letters of introduction to distinguished philanthropists in Great Britain who are specially interested in penal and reformatory institutions, and urged my seeing as many of them as I could. Soon after my arrival there I called on Frederick Hill, Esq., who received me very kindly, and gave me introductions to George Everest, Esq., of the Home office who has the charge of the criminal affairs of the United Kingdom, and to John G. Perry, Esq., one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Prisons. From these gentlemen, together with H. P. Voules, Esq., the other Inspector of Prisons, Sir Walter Crofton, and Captain Barlow, Director of the Mountjoy prison, Dublin, I received most kind and courteous attention. Mr. Perry repeatedly assured me that *I could not trouble him*, and directed me to such representative institutions as he thought it most desirable for me to visit. Both he and Sir Walter Crofton wrote to the governors of some of the prisons informing them of my anticipated visit, and soliciting for me such attention as was necessary. This kindness secured me a cordial reception, and all the information I desired. I sincerely tender to each of the above named gentlemen, and to the governors of the prisons I visited, my most respectful and cordial acknowledgments, and I shall long retain a grateful remembrance of their attention.

In the prisons I visited, I observed much that merits commendation. The character and appearance of the buildings; the facilities which are provided for the daily exercise of the prisoners; the cleanliness which is everywhere apparent; the size and conveniences of the cells; the efficient method of ventilation which generally prevails; the regular system of diet; the easy way of distributing rations; the regard paid to the complaints of prisoners; the way of appointing local inspectors to the borough and county prisons; the vigorous system of inspection which is maintained; the manner of appointing and training officers; the quiet way in which they generally discharge their duties; the entire absence of party politics; the prevalent recognition among the officers of personal responsibility; the daily maintenance of religious service; the holding of two services on the sabbath day, and many other things which meet the observing eye, excite feelings of admiration, and are worthy of imitation.

I was moreover delighted to find, as I repeatedly did, that instead of being satisfied with the improvements which have been already made, there is a determination among many enlightened and influential individuals to proceed with the work until whatever is necessary to self-support, and thorough efficiency shall be secured. Though the realization of this most desirable end will be a work of time, yet under the active and meliorating influence of Christianity, it will be, both here and there, attained.

I do not propose in this communication, which is written by special request, to dwell on the details of prison life in Great Britain, for that was not long since well and fully done by G. B. Hubbell, Esq., in the article he wrote, and which was published in the Twenty-second Annual Report of the Prison Association of New York. I shall simply state some of the impressions I received in the visits I lately made to the prisons there, in the hope of enlighten-

ing the public mind, and heightening public interest in prison management and work, in their relation to the convict, and the community; and I do this the more readily because of its obvious necessity.

1. I was much impressed with *the importance of earnestly using every means in our power to make crime detestable and to prevent its commission.* In the present imperfect state of human nature, and of society, there certainly will be among us vicious persons, violators of civil law, and deprecators of public rights. We cannot wholly prevent this evil. But we should be deeply, intelligently, and earnestly intent on keeping their number as small as possible, by suppressing in every legitimate way the inducements to crime, by making it detestable, and by employing every means in our power to prevent its commission. This we owe to the individual and to society; and if the obligation is not fulfilled, the very worst consequences to both will ensue. It is, I assure you, impossible for any thoughtful man to become acquainted with criminal life in Great Britain, without being painfully conscious of this fact. The sight of so many large prisons, their nearness to each other, the great number of their inmates, the very large number of re-committals, and the shamelessness which is very frequently associated with the commission of crime, press this fact most powerfully on the mind and heart. As I walked one morning with a distinguished and well informed resident of Glasgow through one of its crowded streets leading to the prison, he directed my attention to the large number of young and middle aged persons who stood in the doorways, and on the sidewalks, adding, that probably every one, male and female, was a vicious character; known to be such to the police; that they made no secret of their course in life, and that their only aim was to escape arrest. In the prison, hard by, I was told by one of its officers there were then more than nine hundred convicts.

In London, it is well known, there are very large numbers of professional thieves, ranging from tender childhood to old age. There are well known streets which are full of them. They unblushingly and shamelessly avow their vocation, are seemingly free from all compunction of conscience on its account, and are hardened in crime. In visiting one day the City Prison, Holloway, its excellent governor, Mr. Weatherhead, directed my attention to his classification of prisoners, among which was one which comprehended criminals of this grade. I asked him, if they were numerous in London? He answered "Very." I said, "Are they dexterous in the commission of crime?" He replied, "Remarkably, it is almost impossible to detect them." I inquired, "Have they any sense of shame when detected?" He responded, "Not the least, they simply regard it as a mishap, which must be more carefully guarded against in future operations." To the question, "Have you any hope of their reformation by prison discipline?" He answered, "Not the least, they are so thoroughly obdured." He then led me to the cells of several criminals of this character, and I instantly felt that their countenances indicated the correctness of his assertions.

Happily we have not in this country such large numbers of degenerate and utterly vicious characters. Crime is universally esteemed shameful. Its votaries shrink from the avowal of their occupation, and they dread the public odium which its known commission brings. But it must not be forgotten that the tendency with us is to the same mournful state, and this tendency is being constantly strengthened by the indulgence of evil passions, by the growing corruption of society, and by the combination of its own elements. As disease increases its power and threatening character by indulgence, and as fire burns and spreads more intensely by the increase and combination of its coals, so this tendency to social ruin is promoted by

the increasing numbers in society, by the strengthened indulgence of iniquity, and by the combination and concentration of vicious minds. These considerations and facts show the great importance of intelligently and zealously employing every means in our power to make crime detestable, and to prevent its commission.

2. Another impression which my visits to the prisons in Great Britain induced is *the importance of having proper conceptions of prison government*. It is to be feared that there are many persons there, as well as here, who have charge of penal institutions who feel that nearly all they have to do is to keep in proper custody and employment those committed to their care. This done they think their duty fully discharged. But this opinion, though widely prevalent, is very incorrect, and most injurious in its results. It quite overlooks the great end of imprisonment, and leads to the neglect of those opportunities for good which confinement affords.

Great numbers of those who are imprisoned inherit from a vicious parentage, appetites and dispositions which prompt to the commission of crime; they have also grown up among the depraved, and all their conceptions and associations are of that character. They have never been the objects of virtuous affection, nor enjoyed good moral or mental training. There are others who have yielded to crime under the pressure of strong temptation, which seized them as a strong man armed, and seemed impossible to resist. Now in their confinement they see their folly, their remorse is most bitter, and sometimes almost prompts them to despair. But whatever may be their particular character or experience, every convict presents a case of moral ruin—a ruin the greatest and most lamentable known to men. In each may be seen noble affections perverted, high expectations blasted, cherished hopes extinguished, and strong passions devoted to lust.

Every one has powers which should have been consecrated to God, and allied to the blessed ministries of heaven, but are now broken, lying in the dust, covered with the mire and filth of sin, infested with poison, and employed only for evil.

This is their condition, and must they remain so? Should those having the charge of our penal institutions be content to let them remain in this debased and injurious state? Should they suffer the weeks and months afforded for reflection on the past, and preparation for the future, to pass unimproved? Should they permit the evil passions, which have been long and banefully indulged, to gain strength during this time, that, when freedom is gained, they may break forth with greater power? Should they allow themselves, even though they may not be officially charged with the duty, to make no earnest effort for the restoration of these moral ruins? Certainly not. It is forbidden by every interest of society, by every obligation they owe to their fellow men, and by every conviction of loyalty to God. One great and governing purpose should animate every prison officer, and that to restore his charge to society, prepared by the blessing of God, for the discharge of his obligations, and determined to pursue whatsoever things are lovely and of good report. No work can be more interesting or important than this, and blessed will that individual be, who intelligently and prayerfully pursues it.

3. Closely allied with this was the deepened impression I received of the *great importance of constantly seeking the reformation of the convict, as the chief end of prison discipline.* I was pleased to find the following among the general rules which the officers of the prisons in Great Britain are required to observe. "The great object of reclaiming the criminal should always be kept in view by every officer in the prison, and they should strive to acquire a moral influ-

ence over the prisoners by performing their duties conscientiously, but without harshness. They should especially try to raise the prisoner's mind to a proper feeling of moral obligation by the example of their own uniform regard to truth and integrity, even in the smallest matters. Such conduct will, in most cases, excite the respect and confidence of the prisoners, and will 'make the duties of the officers more satisfactory to themselves, and more useful to the public."

This rule is good and truthful, and it may be extensively regarded; but, from what I saw, and heard, in the prisons I visited, I am compelled to fear that it is not. I would on no account knowingly express an erroneous judgment, but I observed very little in them to indicate that the reformation of the criminal is the regnant desire and aim. I doubt not but that the chaplains are faithful, and, generally, do what they can to secure this end; but the hearty and persistent cooperation of all the prison authorities is required, both there and here. Daniel Webster truthfully said: "Man is not only an intellectual, but he is also a moral being; and his religious feelings and habits require cultivation. Let the religious element in man's nature be neglected; let him be influenced by no higher motive than low, self-interest, and subjected to no stronger restraint than the limits of civil authority, and he becomes the creature of selfish passions and blind fanaticism. The cultivation of the religious sentiment represses licentiousness, incites to general benevolence and the practical acknowledgment of the brotherhood of men; inspires respect for law and order, and gives strength to the whole social fabric; at the same time it conducts the human soul upward to the Author of its being." Of all the attributes of man, the moral and religious are the most important and influential. They, by divine arrangement, have the precedency. They are designed to be the mainspring of thought and action,

the director of the whole man. Let them be neglected, debased, or treated as of secondary importance, and the whole system will be deranged. Readjustment, and reformation will be impossible. There may, indeed, be induced under the power of seclusion, or physical force, a servile fear; perverse passions may, for a time, be checked, and the developments of a depraved will may be stayed; but, let these appliances be removed, and it will soon become apparent that instead of promoting reformation they have induced spiritual hardness, recklessness and hate, and made the man a more inveterate slave to his passions, and a greater injury to the state. The moral and religious improvement of convicts should, therefore, be the first and constant aim of *all* to whose care they are committed. Their chief efforts should be directed to the sanctification of the springs of thought and action; and this secured, through the benediction of God, those objects of Christian solicitude will go forth to exemplify in virtuous lives the wisdom and utility of these efforts.

I would not, however, advocate the adoption of any questionable, or merely sensational measures, for the attainment of this desirable end; nor would I ask that it should interfere with the regular industry of the prisoners; but I would have it made, as in a Christian household, the prevalent temper of the institution: a reality of which every inmate should be conscious, which every one would quietly and willingly acknowledge, and the benign influence of which every one would feel. I would also have such facilities afforded for religious intercourse, and occasional social worship and instruction, in addition to the services of the sabbath, as may be necessary, and as practical wisdom may approve. The prevalence of this spirit and rule would, I am sure, not hinder but promote healthful discipline, productive industry, and lead to cheerful submission and service beyond what can be otherwise

secured. As elsewhere, there would be thus promoted, even in our prisons, and among our convicts diligence in business, and fervor of spirit towards the Lord.

4. As I passed through the prisons of Great Britain I was made to feel more deeply than before *that nothing should be said or done, and that no mode of employment should be enforced which would injure the prisoner's physical power, or degrade his moral sense.* It was gratifying to observe among the general rules that the officers are required to treat the prisoners with kindness and humanity, to listen patiently to their complaints and grievances, and not to speak to them in a harsh and irritating manner. This is right, and I would that a similar rule should everywhere prevail; but I am sure it does not, and I more than fear that habits of speech are indulged by some officers, in all our penal institutions, which are highly reprehensible, most irritating, which provoke the prisoner's worst passions, and sometimes lead him to violate prison rules. A man does not lose his natural feelings, nor his claim to civility by being a convict, and to treat him as though he had, is to make him feel that we reduce him to a level with the brute, and it never fails to excite in him a spirit of resentment, insubordination, and hate. That prison officer who is the more truly Christian in speech and action, will, other things being equal, always be the more efficient and successful.

I very much wish I could say that there is no kind of employment enforced in the prisons of Great Britain which is adapted to injure physical power, and degrade the moral sense. The forms of labor prevalent there, in addition to those which are necessary to the supply of prison wants, are crank turning, oakum picking, and the tread mill. In some institutions, some of the convicts are employed in weaving matting, and in breaking stones. Crank turning is most monotonous, affords not the least

mental exercise, and is entirely unproductive. The prisoner sits alone in his cell, and is required to turn the crank placed there about fourteen thousand times a day, while a dial on the outside indicates whether he has done so or not. This a form of hard labor which simply occupies his time, and is certainly not reformatory.

Oakum picking is simply pulling to pieces old rope, or reducing it, as nearly as fingers can do, to its fibrous state. This, though not useless, is employment for only the eyes and hands, and gives no occupation whatever to the mind. As I looked on numbers of active, intelligent young men so engaged, I felt that it was not in the least adapted to elevate their minds or reform their habits.

The treadmill is an immense wheel turned by the tread of men, for the purpose of raising water or working machinery. From one hundred to two hundred and fifty are engaged on it at a time, according to the force required.

The first of these I saw was at Winchester in the county prison of Hants, and it excited very much surprise, for I had supposed this form of labor was utterly reprehensible, and universally abandoned. On expressing this conviction to Sir Walter Crofton, who kindly took me through that otherwise admirably conducted prison, he assured me it was both necessary and useful, and with proper care not detrimental to health. I supposed that so excellent and enlightened a man, in prison matters, must have good reasons for his opinion, but I resolved on watching its effect elsewhere. Soon after, I visited the prison in Edinburgh, and, conversing with its governor, who is a gentleman of superior intelligence and experience, having held that office for more than twenty-five years, I asked him what he thought of the treadmill as an employment for convicts. He responded, "Most injurious, sir, it is killing to some men, and deteriorating to the minds and morals of all. This opinion was the result of trial, and was given with

decided emphasis. Subsequently, both in Liverpool and in London, I stood by the wheel and watched the men who came off to rest, after *working fifteen or twenty minutes*, and I needed no physician, or officer, to tell me that it was injurious to the health of many, for their physical exhaustion, their laborious breathing, and their profuse perspiration, were decisive proofs of its detrimental influence. I passed from the scene feeling from what I personally witnessed, that this labor must be injurious and demoralizing.

I am aware that it is found very difficult in Great Britain to procure suitable labor for convicts; but I am satisfied that by combination of thought and action among the friends of penal institutions there, these objectionable forms may be supplanted by others that shall be both useful and reformatory. If the convict cannot be taught a way whereby, on liberation, he may obtain an honest living, let him not be compelled to do that which may enfeeble him and make him dependent on charity, or dispose him to commit further depredations on the public welfare.

5. I was led more deeply than ever to *feel the inutility, as a general rule, of short sentences*. In the first visits I made, I was surprised to find so many persons confined for periods extending from two to seven days, during which time they were generally subject to low diet and hard labor. On inquiring the reason for such sentences and treatment, I was repeatedly told that the prevalent practice in Great Britain is to subject those who have been found guilty of petty offenses to a short, sharp, deterrent course of punishment, that they might be kept from the further commission of crime.

I asked if this was the practical result of this course, and was assured it was not, for that the number of re-committals, which are chiefly from this class of convicts, was very large, not less than thirty-nine per cent, and these have increased ten per cent in the last ten years.

I repeatedly inquired of different prison governors whether they thought such sentences generally useful, and the answer I invariably received was an emphatic *no*. Some added, they are baneful in their effect, and pointed to the large number of re-committals as proof. On asking what they would do with persons who had been repeatedly convicted and sentenced for short periods, they replied, "Make every additional offense a heightened aggravation, and impose a proportionate punishment."

This has been my conviction for several years. In some cases, where the transgressor was incautiously led into crime, or where there was no special aggravation, I think the magistrate may, having administered rebuke and counsel, advantageously suspend sentence, or impose a fine, or subject the culprit to ten days solitary confinement; but to repeat these short sentences of from two to seven days, perhaps several times a year, on hardened and persistent transgressors, is very injurious.

These are the sentiments of the Howard Association, a society formed in London for the improvement of prison discipline. They say, "These repeated short sentences are very mischievous. For further committals, there should be sentences of sufficient duration to form habits of labor, in collective industrial occupation, and to impart an ability to earn an honest living."

Earl Stanley, some years since, said, in an address on reformatory institutions: "It is proved by a concurrence of testimony, such as one rarely finds on any social question, admitting of dispute, that short imprisonments are not reformatory in their effect; that they are seldom even deterring, that usually they send back the offender more hardened than he went in. The difficulty is not to find witnesses on this point, but to choose them. I believe there is not a governor of a gaol, not a chaplain, not a judge, not a chairman of quarter sessions, who is not here

of one mind." I trust the time is not far distant when this united testimony will be practically regarded.

6. My visits to the prisons of Great Britain deepened my conviction of *the influence of good laws in lessening the amount of crime*. When passing through the prison in Edinburgh my attention was called by the governor to the fact that the number of prisoners had decreased more than one-third since the enforcement of the Forbes-McKenzie Act, which compels the closing of drinking houses every night at eleven o'clock, and from that hour on Saturday night till seven o'clock on Monday morning. On inquiring the reason for this decrease, he answered, "It is found in the beneficent operation of that righteous act." Just before its passage in 1853, the magistrates of Edinburgh passed a resolution appropriating £12,000 for the enlargement of the prison, *but that made the expenditure unnecessary*. Then the number of prisoners was five hundred and seventy-nine, and had been constantly increasing; since, it has constantly decreased, and now has but three hundred and sixty-seven. This fact most significantly shows the influence of good laws in decreasing crime, and yet it is only one of many which the intelligent observer will meet.

Here is another still more striking. The following petition from the prisoners in the County House of Correction, at Preston, in Lancashire, was lately presented by the Earl of Harrowby to the House of Lords:

*"The petition of the undersigned prisoners in the County House of Correction, at Preston, in Lancashire, humbly sheweth,*

*"That your petitioners have had painful experience of the miseries, bodily and spiritual, produced by beer-houses, and are fully assured that those places constitute the greatest obstacles to the social, moral and religious progress of the laboring classes \* \* \** By frequenting them, parents bring their families to disgrace and ruin, and children are familiarized with vice and crime. \* \* \* *Your petitioners have all been drawn into offenses and crimes of which they might otherwise have remained innocent. We speak from our own direct and bitter knowledge, when we declare that*

beer-houses lead to Sabbath breaking, blasphemy, fraud, robbery, stabbings, manslaughters and murders.

“Your petitioners, therefore, desiring that others may be saved from the fate which has overtaken them, humbly, but most earnestly, pray that your Lordships would be pleased to take such measures as will, on the one hand, lead to the entire suppression of the beer-house curse, and on the other, promote whatever may hold out the prospect of wholesome and rational amusement for the working population of the kingdom.”

Signed by 247 male prisoners.

“This petition,” said the late Rev. John Clay, chaplain of the House of Correction at Preston, a man as eminent for his integrity as for his labors and philanthropy, “was drawn up after I had carefully read upward of eighty written statements, by as many different prisoners, and was, as far as I could make it so, a digest of those statements. \* \* \* As to the signatures themselves, I believe none were ever more heartily attached to a petition than these.”

But the evils of this iniquitous traffic are even more extensively baneful in the intellectual and moral condition of the children of the victims of intemperance. The Rev. W. C. Osborne, the excellent chaplain of Bath Goal, who has for many years devoted much attention to the condition of juvenile delinquents, calculates that about *ten thousand* children are annually sent to prison, and that by far the largest number of these are the offsprings of intemperate parents. In illustration and proof of this, the Rev. Dr. Guthrie, who has done so much for the support and promotion of ragged schools, says in his *Sketches of the Cowgate* :

Look at the history of the children of Edinburgh, in the original ragged school, as detailed in one of the annual reports :

Found homeless,	-	-	-	-	-	72
With the father dead,	-	-	-	-	-	140
Mother dead,	-	-	-	-	-	89
Deserted by parents,	-	-	-	-	-	43
With one or both parents transported,	-	-	-	-	-	9
Fatherless, with drunken mothers,	-	-	-	-	-	77
Motherless, with drunken fathers,	-	-	-	-	-	66
With both parents worthless,	-	-	-	-	-	84
Who have been beggars,	-	-	-	-	-	271
Known or believed to be the children of thieves,	-	-	-	-	-	224

What a horrible array of vice and wretchedness, and all mainly attributable to the baneful, though *legalized* facilities for procuring intoxicating drinks.

There are other laws on the statute books, both of Great Britain and the United States which have a like demoralizing tendency; but there is not room for further illustration, and the above will perhaps suffice to draw the attention of some active minds to the relation which good laws have to the diminution of vice.

7. When inspecting the prisons of Great Britain I could not help feeling *the importance of using the prisoner to the utmost legitimate extent as the instrument of his own reformation.* This is, as it seemed to me, the very spirit of the celebrated Irish system, which was introduced by Sir Walter Crofton to the Mountjoy and associate prisons in Ireland, with the details of which I was most kindly made acquainted by Captain Barlow, her majesty's present director in Dublin. That system, while it throws no false guise over crime, has no expression of revenge, does not simply seek restitution for the wrongs done to society, nor the exaction of so much suffering for so much sin. But it recognizes the manhood of the transgressor, his possession of moral sense, and subjection to its power. It seeks to impress his mind with the wrongfulness of his conduct; with the fact that his degradation and sufferings are self-inflicted; that his own interests demand, and are associated with his reformation; that he can do very much towards securing it, and it constantly aids his efforts in that direction. It tries to save him for himself and for society. It says, to use the words of Mr. Hubbell, "Let us lift him up. Let us inquire into the nature of his case. Perhaps he is not entirely lost yet. Perhaps he can yet stand. The man, though doubting as to the reality of kindness, begins to be reassured. Mercy speaks kindly to him. Benevolence undertakes the labor of teaching

him. Justice deals firmly but compassionately with him. The heavy iron gate of the inner prison opens, and he is allowed to step out. He is now trusted and encouraged. The pleasant paths of wisdom are made plain to him, and he begins to feel a desire to walk therein. By a course of obedience and good conduct, he gains the confidence of justice, who opens a second gate, and the once bruised and cowering felon passes to another stage, where greater freedom is allowed him. Thus step by step he is encouraged, instructed, lifted up, till, when the time comes to allow him to pass the last iron gate, he has but a gentle step to take, and he finds a place and takes it in the society of virtuous and useful men. No fetters, or bars, or iron gates could hold Peter longer in prison, when the angel of justice, mercy and truth had appeared to release him. The criminal now may be trusted on his honor," and he passes to the full enjoyment of freedom, not soured, disheartened, or hardened, but with thankfulness to God that he has been subjected to such healthful and reformatory restraints and influences.

Such appeared to me to be the spirit and tendency of the Irish convict system. I do not say it can be adopted in all its details in the United States; but, whether it can be or not, there certainly ought to be, and should be, one equally just, philosophical, and Christian. This is demanded by the interests of the convict, of society, and by the requirements of God, and I trust those who are seeking the improvement of our prison discipline will not rest till it is secured. Let us have a system in which punishment and pecuniary profit shall be subordinate to reformation; which shall nurture and develop the moral affections and sentiments of the human soul, and shall thoroughly engage the dispositions and efforts of the criminal for the realization of its great end.

8. In connection with this particular, I was also impressed in passing through the prisons of Great Britain *with the importance of having officers of the right character and qualifications.* I have great pleasure in saying that several of the governors and chaplains I saw, appeared to be eminently fitted for their positions, and devoted to their duties. But it was not so with all. And I see not how, with the rule of appointment which is there generally regarded, the evil can be prevented. For while party politics are not allowed, as they do too frequently with us, to control appointments, yet social, family, and ecclesiastical connections have great power. No person, however high his qualifications, is eligible for a prison chaplaincy in England, who is not a clergyman of the established, or Episcopal church; nor in Scotland, who does not belong to the established Presbyterian church. The consequence is that this office is not unfrequently filled by gentlemen who, though otherwise excellent, are destitute of the necessary qualifications, and whose cherished tastes and habits hinder their cultivation. Such appointments are unwise, and often baneful; for no system, however good, will be efficiently carried out by persons who are not in sympathy with it. The preaching of the gospel in a perfunctory way, will never penetrate a convict's heart. Everywhere it is of very doubtful utility, but in a prison it does harm, and excites aversion, rather than love to the truth. God employs in the accomplishment of his gracious plans for the sinner's good, instruments in sympathy with himself, who possess his mind, express his spirit, and delight in doing his work. This is the example he would have us follow, and nowhere is it more important than among prisoners. It has been truthfully said by the gentleman whose words have been already quoted: "The development of moral sentiments in the human heart, and everything good and noble in the human character, is determined in a far greater degree by sympa-

thy and by silent or unspoken influence and example, than by formal precepts and instruction; and in no place or branch of human society is this position more applicable than in the management and training of those who are deprived of liberty for the violation of human laws. Hence the transcendent importance of honest, virtuous, able officers at the head of all large penal institutions. Men of high powers of mind, great executive ability, and long and varied experience, are the only ones who can be safely trusted in such positions. Such men placed at the head of the great penal institutions of our land, with freedom to act, would change their moral tone and general character in a very brief space of time. If the chief officer be known to possess the requisite qualifications in point of talent, virtue and experience, his every act will have a mighty influence for good over the whole establishment. He may speak but little, only enough to make his wishes known, and yet what he says will be felt in every part of the institution. If a subordinate officer should hear him speak kindly to a prisoner, giving encouragement to his every effort to improve, welcoming every act of obedience, and offering assistance at every step of advancement, there would arise at once a kindly feeling in his own heart towards all the poor degraded creatures within the prison; a feeling born of sympathy and nourished by that same excellent aliment. The prisoner being on his part placed under the same kind of a regime, would naturally be moved by the same influences to act in the same spirit; and thus would spring up that mutual good will, sympathy and cooperation between officers and prisoners, which are essential elements and agencies in any penal institution that shall be truly reformatory."

9. I was much interested and impressed by *the efforts made in Great Britain to give instruction to prisoners*. This is far more generally attended to there than in the United States.

Every prison I saw had a school room, and a regular school master; some had an assistant school master, and a school mistress for the females. All the prisoners needing instruction were obliged to attend. In some of the prisons, the time devoted to instruction is one hour, for three days each week, and in others, one hour every day. Reading, writing, and arithmetic, are the branches taught, and the prisoners generally seem anxious to learn. I went into several of these school rooms when the prisoners were assembled for instruction, and was permitted to examine their books. The sight was very gratifying; and while I felt that some, from age or long indulged ignorance, would gain but little benefit, the looks of others assured me they had received great good.

At the Mountjoy prison in Dublin, I found that much attention is paid to the mental improvement of the prisoners. There is an accomplished head school master, who has one or more assistants; and the prison schools are subject to the supervision of the national school inspectors, and are highly commended by them. This attention to instruction is maintained through each grade of the Irish convict system, and is largely increased in the third or last. Then, in addition to regular daily school lessons, the convict hears five lectures each week by Mr. James O'gan, who has been appointed to this service by the authorities, and is fully competent to the task. These lectures, judging from what I heard, are of an interesting and instructive character, delivered in a style to enlist the convict's attention, enlarge his thoughts, and deepen his desire for knowledge, and love of truth. I was delighted to mark the indications, given on the occasion of my visit to the Smithfield prison, of awakened intellect, and a higher manhood, consequent on the training they had received under this Irish system.

I would that all the criminals in our penal institutions who cannot read and write were placed under such a course of instruction, and taught how they may instruct themselves. I know that many of them are painfully ignorant, and that this, in many instances, has led them to vice and imprisonment. To educate them is the obvious duty of the state, and if thoroughly done would be followed with happy results. I long for the time when the system of prison discipline suggested by Mr. Haynes, warden of the Massachusetts state prison, shall be adopted throughout the United States. He says: "The leading object should be reformation, and my agencies would be proper religious services, educating the ignorant, giving all who were deficient a good trade, surrounding them with officers in whom they would have confidence, prohibiting all irritating language, giving them frequent opportunities for exercise and recreation, endeavoring to fan into a flame the slightest spark of manhood that they might bring into prison, and finally, when, in my judgment, they deserved it, to discharge them conditionally — always bearing in mind that they were men, made in God's own image, with minds to be improved, and with souls to save."

10. I was greatly surprised in my visits to learn *how very little the prisons in Great Britain generally yield to their own support*. I am aware that the hindrances to self-support there are much greater than in the United States. But I could not suppress the conviction that they might be made to approximate much nearer to it than at present, should the great and good men of that country more generally turn their thoughts to the subject.

I was astonished when informed by Mr. Tallack, the excellent secretary of the Howard Association, that, taking the average of England and Wales every prisoner cost the country more than £30 per annum, while the average

result of prison labor was under £2 per prisoner. At Exeter county gaol, where the male prisoners are employed in breaking stones, their average earnings have not exceeded one farthing per head per day for the last five years. Mr. J. T. Hibbert, M. P., says he found in one gaol the expense per prisoner, where there was a considerable number of them, was £79 per man, and that the time had come when the country were spending between two or three millions sterling on crime.

That this state of things is susceptible of great improvement, even there, I have no doubt, for I found some prisons that are approaching to self-support. The objection to the adoption of those industrial measures whereby it might be secured, is, that it would create an unfair competition with outside labor. But this I am obliged to regard as unfounded, for the number of prisoners is so small, compared with the public outside, that the competition, if it did exist, would be scarcely felt. Then, if they do not earn something towards their support, the rate-payers must pay the whole expense, and they will come forth from their confinement to commit fresh depredations on the public interests. It is of the first importance that prisons should be made as nearly as possible self-supporting. I am sure it will not hinder, but promote, the great end of prison discipline; and I trust that public opinion will soon be so far enlightened that present prejudice will be abandoned, and that measures, which shall secure this end, will be universally regarded as advantageous both to the convict and to society.

Finally, my visits to the prisons in Great Britain deepened my conviction of *the need and importance of greater care for discharged prisoners*. I regret to say that generally this matter receives but little attention, except in connection with the Mountjoy prison in Dublin. There a complete supervision is effectually and most successfully maintained.

But elsewhere, as with us generally in the United States, the prisoner is left on his discharge entirely to himself, and not unfrequently soon falls again into crime. In some places, however, there is something done for their aid by benevolent individuals or societies. The most exemplary instance of this kind I found was at Wakefield in Yorkshire. There the excellent governor of the prison showed me a large house that had, for a considerable time, been rented as a temporary industrial home for those who were desirous, on their discharge, of work, but who could not obtain it.

There the inmates are kept employed and receive such wages as enable them to pay the very reasonable charge for board and lodging, and to save a little for future wants. The persons who are admitted to this home are prisoners discharged from the Yorkshire West Riding prison at Wakefield, who apply for admission within fourteen days of their discharge. No temptation is offered to remain long in it, but on the contrary the purpose to obtain work elsewhere is encouraged. In consequence the wages paid are not quite as good as those received by working men in the district around, and no one is allowed to remain beyond a certain time. This home is under the general supervision of the governor of the prison who takes great interest therein. It is admirably managed. Last year there were admitted one hundred and twenty-six persons, one hundred and nineteen of whom were discharged prisoners, and seven were destitute persons from the town.

I was greatly gratified to find a similar home had been provided for discharged female convicts, and that the excellent lady of the governor devoted much time to its welfare. This also was in a prosperous condition and doing much good.

Such efforts for the welfare of discharged convicts are an individual and public benefaction; for the period of their liberation is peculiarly critical. Their good intentions and actual improvement in prison are then severely tested. The question is then to be decided whether they shall pursue the path of virtue, or return again to crime. A few weeks will commonly decide the point. The trial is often terribly severe to the poor liberated convict. The temptations which surround him are very strong and pressing. There is a great conflict in his soul. He wishes to do right, but is strongly urged to do wrong. He wishes to stand, but knowing his weakness he fears he shall fall. He would do good, but evil is present with him. At such a time he specially needs some kindly influence thrown around him, and some friendly hand extended for his aid. These he ought to have. The public owe the benefaction to him and to themselves. It is necessary to the consummation of their reformatory measures. And it is all but essential to the prevalence of his good purposes and habits. If it is afforded, he will probably be kept from the path of crime, and pursue that of industry and virtue; but if it is withheld, all previous efforts for his amendment will likely fail, he will become more hardened in sin, more embittered against society, and will return with greater violence to criminal pursuits. May the time soon come, when there shall everywhere be exercised a wise and beneficent care of those who have been discharged from the prison house.

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